

LAKE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK LAKE LOCAL SCHOOLS 2022/23

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This handbook is being presented to you because your son/daughter desires to participate in interscholastic athletics at Lake Local Schools. You have also expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family's interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which assist students in personal growth and development.

The Lake Local School District is interested in the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets students' needs for self-expression, mental, and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose, and will further each students' educational maturity.

Likewise, we believe that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations as a parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) of an athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics.

It is the role of the Athletic Council to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad based community support to be fully effective. This is achieved only through communication between the Athletic Department and the parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) of our athletes. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic handbook for students, parents and coaches.

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ATHLETIC POLICIES

- A. We believe that the responsibility of an athlete to his/her fellow athletes is a year-round commitment and does not end with the season. Therefore, the Athletic Handbook is in effect for 12 months (24 hours a day, 7 Days a week, 52 weeks of the year) beginning with the signed date on the Informed Consent Agreement.
- B. Each student and parent/guardian shall read all of the enclosed material and certify that they understand the Drug/Alcohol Policies and other Athletic Handbook Policies of the Lake Local School District. The signed informed consent waiver will be filed in the Athletic Director's office.

2. ACTIVITY FEES

- A. The Lake Local School District has implemented a pay to participate program designed to reduce costs to the general fund for operating co-curricular & extra-curricular activities. **Parents & students are advised that payment of fees does not automatically insure playing/participation time.**
 1. If a student qualifies for the Free & Reduced Lunch Program, fees shall be waived in full for students qualifying for Free lunch and fees shall be waived by 50% for students qualifying for reduced lunch.
 2. Free or reduced fees do not apply to summer programs, elementary programs, camps, team wear, etc.
 3. Activity fee collection dates are set by the Athletic Department and generally occur after the team rosters are set. Students who do not pay their fee by the deadline will be given (1) week to pay their fee, afterwards they may be suspended from practices/contests until such payment is made.
 4. No refund will be issued if a student quits, is dismissed from an activity, or becomes academically ineligible at any time.
 5. No refund will be issued for season ending injuries, after the first game. A full refund will be granted if an athlete sustains a season ending injury prior to the start of scheduled contests. A physician's note may be required.
 6. If minimum numbers for teams are not met by a date to be determined, the activity may be canceled.
- B. PAY TO PARTICIPATE FEES - ATHLETICS:
 1. Fees are set by the Board of Education; \$60 per athlete - per season.
Individual Cap = \$200 per athlete, Family Cap = \$360. Payment must be made ONLINE via PAYSCHOOLS. There is NO service fee for the transaction. Information regarding PAYSCHOOLS can be found on the district website.

3. **ADMISSION PRICES & PASSES** (admission prices are set by the Northern Buckeye Conference)

A. EVENT CHARGES

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Student</u>
1. High School Contests	\$7.00	\$5.00
2. Separate Freshmen or JV Contests	\$5.00	\$3.00
3. Middle School Contests	\$5.00	\$3.00
4. OHSAA Tournaments	set by the OHSAA/NWDAB	
5. Individual Pass - Year	\$200	\$175
6. Individual Pass - Season	\$150	\$125
7. Family Pass - Year	\$400 (limited to 2 adults & 4 children – living in the same household)	
8. Family Pass - Season	\$300 (limited to 2 adults & 4 children – living in the same household)	

B. GREY FLYER ATHLETIC PASS FREE

1. Senior Citizens over 65 yrs. old & living in Lake Twp.
2. Send a copy of driver's license to the athletic office for verification.

C. PASS USAGE & RESTRICTIONS:

1. Those who have been granted a pass, will have their name added to a list. This list will be present at the ticket seller's table, where your name will be checked off. You may be required to show proof of identity. Some passes may be valid for only a season, not a year.
2. Passes are NOT accepted for admission into any away contests, tournaments or special functions.

4. **ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES**

- A. A certified athletic trainer is generally available in the high school from 3:30-6:30 PM, Mondays thru Fridays, and at most home varsity contests. Because of time & financial constraints, most middle school contests cannot be covered.

5. **ATTENDANCE-PARTICIPATION POLICY**

A. TO SCHOOL

1. In order to participate in a school-day practice or contest, a student athlete must be in attendance by the end of 1st period, and remain in attendance until the end of the school day. Field trips, alternate learning experiences, medical/dental appointments, and special family situations may be excused by an administrator.

B. SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

1. Any student-athlete suspended out of school or expelled from school will be denied practice and/or contest participation privileges, during the period of suspension. However, In-School suspensions served at Lake Schools may not result in a denial of participation.

C. TO PRACTICE/CONTESTS (attendance during snow/ice calamity days are not mandatory)

1. Excused Absence from Practice/Contest:
 - a. Advance notice from athlete in writing to the appropriate coach.
 - b. Reason considered unavoidable and excusable by the coaches.
 - c. Penalty - Athlete may miss necessary mental and physical preparation for contest, resulting in non-participation in that contest. Athlete may be required to make-up lost time. Consequence is determined by the coach.
2. Unexcused Absence from Practice/Contest:
 - a. All absences not falling into the excused category above.
 - b. Penalty - First offense - suspension from next 1-2 contests. Second offense - suspension for the remainder of season.
3. Holidays/Vacations:
 - a. Vacations - If an athlete is going on a family vacation with parent/guardian or is attending a school-related activity during a school recess, advance notice must be given to the coach by the first day of official team practice. Coaches determine consequences for missed practices/contests.
 - b. Excused – see 1c
 - c. Unexcused – see 2b

6. AWARDS / RECOGNITION POLICIES

A. AWARDS PROGRAMS

1. At the conclusion of each season, the Athletic Dept. conducts awards assemblies/programs for athletes grades 7-12. Middle school students receive participation award certificates at school assemblies during school hours. High school athletes receive various awards at an awards program, scheduled in the evening.

B. AWARDS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION POLICY

1. If any student athlete, at the conclusion of the season, is not a team member in good standing as a result of not proving substantial effort to complete the required educational assistance program or assessment and follow-up program, the athlete could forfeit the privilege to attend the awards program and to receive all letters and/or awards.
2. If any student athlete, at the conclusion of the season, has not turned in all uniforms/equipment, the athlete may be denied any awards until this obligation has been met.
3. A student athlete who has been disciplined/ejected at the end of a season for a behavior conduct violation, may be denied attendance to the awards program.

C. PARENT NIGHT

1. During the Fall and Winter seasons, the Athletic Department conducts senior parent recognition nights during a selected athletic contest. At these activities seniors are introduced with their parents with a brief (because of time constraints) biography read of what the student has accomplished. In addition, these same individuals have the opportunity to purchase pictures taken prior to the activity.

D. TYPES OF AWARDS

1. Varsity Letter:
It is desired that the letter “L” be something the athlete must earn by athletic ability, but not be so unattainable that only the outstanding athlete can achieve it. It is also desired that the coach of each sport have a large amount of leeway in determining who receives the letter. Coach’s individual letter policies will be given to the athletes prior to the start of the season. These letter requirements are also kept on file in the Athletic Office.
2. Reserve Certificates:
A certificate presented at the Awards Program, to athletes for participation in junior varsity level sports.
3. Participation Certificates:
A certificate presented at the Awards Program, to athletes for their participation in a various athletic program.
4. Freshmen Numerals: Numbers indicating year of graduation are presented to Freshmen completing their season.
5. All-Academic Awards: (seniors only)
Leagues and associations have different qualifying criteria as to their selections. Generally there is a minimal G.P.A. required over a cumulative period, not a current grading period. These awards are only given to seniors and are presented certificates at the Awards Program.
6. All-League Awards: (varsity level)
All-league selections are conducted by the head coaches within the league of that sport. Keep in mind that our school is only (1) vote. All-league recipients will receive a certificate, presented at the Awards Program.
7. All-District Awards: (varsity level)
All-district selections are conducted by the head coaches within the northwest district of that sport. Keep in mind that our school is only (1) vote.
 - a. There are other forms of all-district honors, such as; Associated Press and other local newspapers selections. Certificates are generally presented to these individuals at the Awards Program. Some associations invite the winners to a banquet.
8. State Awards: (varsity level)
The media, coaches association, or other agencies select these awards.
9. MVP/MIP Awards: (varsity level)
Most valuable and most improved awards are selected by their teammates (with some coach control) in each sport. These selections receive a plaque at the Awards Program.
10. School Records Awards: (varsity level)
Current school records for each sport are posted in the cafeteria hallway. When an athlete breaks or ties a school record, they are presented with a plaque at the Awards Program. Career records are awarded after completion of their senior season.
11. Scholar-Athlete: (seniors only)
At the Academic Awards Program, a senior boy and girl are presented with a certificate for achieving the highest G.P.A. and at least (4) varsity letters in various sports.
12. Sportsmanship Award: (seniors only)
At the Spring Athletic Awards Program, a senior boy and girl are presented with a certificate for exhibiting exemplary sportsmanship throughout their years in athletics. Award winners are selected by the entire head coaching staff of Lake High School.

- 13. Outstanding Senior Athlete:
At the Spring Athletic Awards Program, a senior boy and girl are presented with a plaque for displaying outstanding athletic achievements/performances throughout their years in athletics. Award winners are selected by the entire head coaching staff of Lake High School.
- 14. Hall of Fame (individual):
Members of the current Hall of Fame are displayed throughout the Sports Plaza. A selection committee of (7) members uses very stringent procedures to select members to this elite group. Anyone may nominate an individual for consideration. Nomination forms can be found in the Athletic Office.
- 15. Hall of Fame (team):
Members of the current Team Hall of Fame are displayed throughout the Sports Plaza. These teams either completed an undefeated regular season or participated in the State Tournament. There is no nomination process for this award.
- 16. Managers Award:
All students who have been selected to compile statistics for a sports team must do so satisfactorily for the entire season and is entitled to the appropriate awards for that sport. Any student who manages satisfactorily for the entire sports season is entitled to the appropriate awards for that sport.

E. WEARING OF AWARDS POLICY

- 1. It is the firm belief of the Lake Athletic Department that awards earned should be worn with dignity and class. Athletes are to display their awards in such a manner and are expected to behave in an appropriate manner when wearing them; the athlete represents the team and the school when wearing the award - actions that detract from a positive image will not be accepted.

7. **BOOSTER CLUBS**

A. FLYER CLUB

- 1. The Flyer Club is an adult volunteer group dedicated to promoting the well being of Lake Township student-athletes through the continual improvement of athletic facilities and programs. Membership in this club demonstrates an unselfish willingness to volunteer on projects designed to enhance our athletic programs. Dedicated members will demonstrate positive attitudes and will work together to enhance the experiences of our student-athletes involved in Lake Athletics. *Non-tax dollar funding* for the Flyer Club comes from private donations, Pepsi sales and the Annual Lake Golf Outing in June. Services for which this volunteer group provides are as follows:
- 2. Flyer Club Services:

-field painters	-concession captains	-construction	-welding
-scoreboard operators	-chain crew	-concrete	
-scoreboard timers	-line judges	-electrical	
-announcers	-video	-painting	
-spotters	-statisticians	-security	
-scorebook keepers	-ticket takers	-plumbing	
- 3. Those interested in volunteering services, materials, equipment or money towards athletic projects can gain further information by contacting the Athletic Office.

B. ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

- 1. The Athletic Boosters Club was formed to promote and assist the athletes of Lake Local Schools. The Boosters meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the high school media center. All parents are encouraged to attend. Booster memberships cost \$25 or \$50, depending on level chosen.

2. *The Boosters are the sole provider of the uniforms worn by our athletes.* Major fundraising activities include the Reverse Raffle, 200 Club, 50/50 raffles and concessions. The meetings held each month help to organize these activities. In addition to providing funds that are vital to our athletes, the Boosters are also heavily involved in making the many tournaments hosted by Lake a tremendous success. Please continue to say “yes” when you are asked to help, and consider attending a meeting to help on the organizational level. Your son or daughter benefits directly from the efforts of this group of volunteers.
3. CONCESSION STAND WORKER POLICY
 - a. Parents are required to work (1) game as a concession stand volunteer during each season in which their child participates. Parents will complete a sign-up form and will be contacted regarding their assigned game.

8. CANCELLATIONS POLICY – INCLEMENT WEATHER

A. SEVERE WEATHER

1. Tornado Warnings:
 - a. All athletic activities will be suspended when a “Tornado Warning” exists in either Wood County or any county for which a team is traveling to. Upon notification of a Tornado Warning all student-athletes will be immediately directed to the nearest safe structure and remain there until the all clear is given.
 - b. Coaches are advised if their team is off campus and the potential exists for severe weather, that they inquire from the opposing school as to where the team can seek shelter if needed. This should be done upon arrival to the off campus site. No bus will depart and travel into or through the path of a county under a Tornado Warning.
2. Severe Thunderstorms:
 - a. All athletic activities should be suspended when lightning is detected or a clap of thunder can be heard in the area of participation. Student-athletes should be moved to a safe location until at least (30) minutes after the last lightning strike is detected or clap of thunder is heard.

B. FALL SEASON

1. School closures due to fog generally will not cause any cancellations at the high school. However, fog closures at the middle school level may result in activities being canceled. Golf matches may incur cancellations due to rainy weather. The decision to cancel is generally made by 3:00 PM and *sent via Remind*

C. WINTER SEASON

1. Early Dismissal from School:
 - a. ALL practices & contests are canceled. *Athletes are expected to leave the building and go home with the rest of the student body.*
2. School Closed: (Calamity Day)
 - a. If approved by the school administration, HS practices or contests may still proceed. However, practice times will likely be adjusted due to conditions. Practices are on a “voluntary” basis. They cannot be mandatory.
 - b. The decision to play a HS contest is on a case by case situation (due to travel conditions). All practices or contests below the HS level will be canceled.
 - c. An administrative decision will generally be made by 12:00 noon and *sent via Remind*. *For Saturdays - decisions will be made as soon as possible.*

D. SPRING SEASON

1. School closures due to fog generally will not cause any cancellations at the high school. However, fog closures at the middle school level may result in activities being canceled.
 - a. Activities may incur cancellations due to rainy or cold weather. Ice & snow conditions early in Spring season may also cause cancellations to practices. The decision to cancel is generally made by 3:00 PM and *sent via Remind*.

9. COACH'S POLICIES

- A. Each coach is encouraged to set team rules in addition to the rules in the Athletic Handbook. Rules and penalties for tardiness, curfew violations, inappropriate practice/game dress, and misconduct are examples of acceptable coach's guidelines. These rules should be given in writing to all athletes, parents and the Athletic Director at the beginning of each season.

10. COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY

- A. In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible.

11. CONDUCT OF AN ATHLETE

A. EXPECTATIONS

1. A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the Athletic Department. The community, the school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration.
2. The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in all of the following areas:
3. In the classroom - In the academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. A person cannot be a classroom laggard and think he/she can be an outstanding athlete. If you are lazy in class, you will be lazy on the practice field, floor, or mat, and will never reach your full potential. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies to insure acceptable grades.
4. In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty at all times. Horseplay and unnecessary boisterousness are not approved habits of behavior.
5. School discipline referral - Any student referred to the office for a school rules violation may be denied the privilege of participation in all athletic activities for a period determined by either the coach or the Athletic Director.
6. On the field - In the area of athletic competition, a true athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics, and learns fast that losing is part of the game. You should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest, whether in defeat or victory.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LAKE ATHLETE

1. Being a member of a Lake Local Schools athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad, you have inherited a wonderful tradition. A tradition you are challenged to uphold.

2. Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years, our squads have achieved a high level of success. Many individuals have set records and won All-League, District, and State honors.
3. It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. To compete for your school, you will have to say “no” to pleasures an athlete cannot afford. When you wear the Navy Blue, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but also are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF

1. The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experiences. Your studies, your participation in other extra-curricular activities, as well as in sports, prepare you for life as an adult.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL

1. Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Lake Local Schools cannot maintain its position of having outstanding programs unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.
2. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic squad. The student body and the citizens of the community know you. You are on the stage, with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community, and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make Lake proud of you, and your community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS

1. As a squad member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. You should never give your family anything of which to be ashamed. You must measure up to all of the training rules. You should practice to the best of your ability every day. If you have played the game “all out”, you can keep your self-respect, and your family can be justly proud of you. The younger students in the Lake Local School District are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.

F. CONSEQUENCES

1. All athletes shall abide by a code of conduct, which will earn them the honor and the respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violations of law, tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the school and will not be tolerated. The coach and/or the Athletic Director will determine consequence(s) for these types of violations. Consequences may involve any of the following, but not limited to:
 - a. Extended physical conditioning, or practice time.
 - b. Community service as assigned.
 - c. Suspension from practice(s) / contest(s).
 - d. Loss of any leadership position for the remainder of the school year.
 - e. Loss of awards, honors, etc.
 - f. Removal from team.
 - g. Restitution.
 - h. Denial of participation.

G. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1. When school personnel learn that a student has violated or is suspected to have violated any rule, the Athletic Director and/or Principal (designee) shall be notified immediately. The investigation shall be initiated within 72 hours of notification.
2. The student may be temporarily removed from an athletic contest and/or practice by the Principal (designee), Athletic Director (designee), or coach responsible for supervision of the activity.
3. A review committee consisting of, but not limited to; the Coach, Athletic Director and/or Principal, will meet to investigate the violation. If the review committee feels action beyond temporary removal is warranted, the Athletic Director or designee shall inform the student and/or the parent of the specific violation and possible penalty.
4. An informal hearing with the student and the review committee will be held.
5. Violations shall be determined based on the totality of all reasonable, available evidence. The review committee shall have the authority to hear testimony, receive sworn statements and evidence, and take any other reasonable actions necessary to reach a decision.
6. The Athletic Director will inform the student and the parents of the review committee's decision.
7. The review committee's decision may be appealed to the Building Principal. Final appeals may be made to Superintendent/Designee. The decision of the Superintendent/Designee is final.
8. During an appeal, the student may practice, but may not participate in any official activity pending the outcome of the hearing.

13. CONCERNS/COMPLAINTS

- A. With few exceptions, the chain of command should be followed in dealing with problems, questions, or complaints. *Do not confront coaches before or after contests or practice.* Call to set-up an appointment with the coach. If a meeting with coach did not result in a satisfactory resolution, then call to set-up an appointment with the Athletic Director. Failure to follow chain of command may only delay any resolution. The chain of command is as follows:
 1. Direct Coach
 2. Head Coach
 3. Athletic Director
 4. Superintendent
 5. Board of Education
- B. Inappropriate Issues to Discuss with Coaches:
 1. Game strategy or play calling.
 2. Other student athletes.
 3. Playing time. Coaches will only discuss playing time with the athlete.

14. COMMUNICATIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION

- A. Contact Information:
 - a. Phone numbers & email addresses for coaches and related athletic administration can be found on the school athletic web page: www.lakeschools.org under "athletics."
- B. Communication:

We recognize the importance of communication and cooperation between school officials, coaches, parents & athletes. However, these communications whether they be via; in-person, phone, text messaging, voice messaging or any & all forms of social media, must be conducted in a professional and respectful manner. Suggested disciplinary actions for

communications deemed disrespectful or inappropriate, social media postings whether they be directly or indirectly negatively impacting someone can be:

1. Conference/hearing with school officials via in-person, phone or letter.
2. Removal from all athletic activities or related for up to (1) calendar year.
3. Denial of participation in athletic programs.

15. DROPPING SPORTS POLICY

A. An athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Immediately talk with your coach.
2. Check in all equipment issued to you.
3. Permission by the Head Coach & Director of Athletics is required to work out in another program and must be for legitimate reasons.

16. DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO POLICY

A. PHILOSOPHY

This Drug Policy is designed to help student athletes avoid or cope with drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. The policies and process established by the Lake Local Schools Board of Education are based upon the following principles:

1. There is no such thing as responsible use of controlled substances/mood altering chemicals, alcohol, or tobacco by a junior high or high school student. Adolescent use is not only against the law, it jeopardizes the student's health and safety, and it inhibits attainment of individual potential. Therefore, use of controlled substances/mood-altering drugs, alcohol, or tobacco by student athletes will not be tolerated.
2. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Student athletes are in a highly visible setting of leadership, competition, and performance. Therefore, student athletes will be held to a higher accountability of conduct and behavior than the student who chooses neither to participate nor to represent Lake Schools.
3. Reliable reports and information of violation of this policy will be investigated by coaches, advisors, and/or administration.
4. Parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) of a student athlete have a right to be informed. Therefore, the parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) will be informed in a timely manner of findings by school staff.
5. Violation of this Drug Policy in a school or community setting reflects poorly on the individual, family, team/organization, and school. Therefore, violations of this nature will carry the penalties and consequences listed below.
6. Participation is better than exclusion. Therefore, some violations will allow the student athlete to remain a member of a team as long as the student athlete follows the process listed below.
7. The school nurse, trainer, team doctors, coaches, guidance counselors, administration and BOE are interrelated. Therefore, they should share information in an effort to promote a lifestyle among students that is drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. Professional judgment will be used regarding the sharing of confidential info by school officials.

B. PURPOSE

1. To provide a healthy and safe environment to all student athletes.
2. To discourage or provide a deterrence for all student athletes from using drugs and alcohol.
3. To provide solutions for the student athlete who does use drugs and alcohol.
4. To provide disciplinary policies for violations of the drug free policy.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. Student Athlete – Any person participating in the junior or senior high school athletic program and/or contests under the control and jurisdiction of the Lake Local School District and/or the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
2. Athletic Season – In-season start dates will begin as published by the Ohio High School Athletic Association or sanctioning organization and continue until the completion of all contests for that sport for the Lake Local Schools.
3. Random Selection – A system of selecting athletes for drug and alcohol testing in which each athlete shall have a fair and equitable chance of being selected each time selections are required.
4. Illegal/Illicit Drugs – Any substance which an individual may not sell, offer to sell, possess, give, exchange, use, distribute, or purchase under State or Federal Law. This definition also includes all prescription drugs obtained without authorization and all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used in any way other than for medical purposes in accordance with the directions for use provided by in the prescription or by the manufacturer.
5. Alcohol – Any intoxicating liquor, alcohol, wine, beer, mixed beverage, or malt liquor/beverage, as defined by Ohio law. The term does not include a substance used for medical purposes in accordance with directions for use provide in a prescription or by the manufacturer, and in accordance with school district policy and rules related to the use of prescription and non-prescription drugs, providing the substance is (a) authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container, which container shall state the student’s name and directions for use or (b) an over-the-counter medicine.
6. Assessment – A program operated by a certified chemical dependency counselor or at any agency certified by the Ohio Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, or a licensed physician trained in chemical dependency.
7. Possession – Having control over an item.
8. Trafficking – Sell, offer to sell, distribute, possess with intent to distribute, cultivate, manufacture, or otherwise engage in any part of the production of a controlled substance.
9. Controlled Substances – Means a drug, compound, mixture, preparation, or substance included in Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V established pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.
10. Mood-Altering Chemicals – Includes, without limitation, narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, counterfeit or synthetic drugs, marijuana, alcohol, and any common substance such as “white-out,” glue, gasoline, etc., used for its mood-altering effect. Prescription drugs are included in this, unless authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container, which container shall state the student’s name and the directions for proper use.
11. Paraphernalia – Instruments such as pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles, cocaine spoons or kits, and any other items normally or actually used for the packaging, conveyance, dispensation, or use of drugs will not be permitted on any school property or vehicle and will be subject to confiscation. Possession of drug paraphernalia will be treated the same as possession of a controlled substance.
12. Tobacco – All types of tobacco products, including smokeless.
13. Counterfeit Substance:
 - a. Any drug that bears, or whose container or label bears, a trademark, trade name, or another identifying mark used without authorization of the owner or rights to such trademark, trade name, or identifying mark.
 - b. Any unmarked or unlabeled substance that is represented to be a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical, manufactured, possessed, packed, or distributed by a person other than the person that manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed it.
 - c. Any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical, but is not a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical or is a different controlled substance/mood-altering chemical.

- d. Any substance other than a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical that a reasonable person would believe to be a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical because of its similarity in shape, size, and color or its markings, labeling, packaging, distribution, or the price for which it is sold or offered for sale.

D. TYPES OF TESTING

1. TEAM TESTING:

- a. At the beginning of each season, all athletes will submit to urine drug testing. This testing will be completed within the first two weeks of the season on a specified date and time pre-announced.
- b. All student athletes and their parent/guardian must properly sign the INFORMED CONSENT AGREEMENT prior to testing.
- c. The collection process will take place on school property or at the Board of Education approved testing facility.
- d. In the event that the athlete is absent from the pre-season testing, the athlete will submit to urine drug testing at the Board of Education approved testing facility within five (5) calendar days of the scheduled pre-season team testing. Failure to do so will result in a Drug Policy violation.
- e. Any student moving into the District shall be tested prior to the time the athlete joins a team. In addition, any student trying out for or joining a team after the pre-season testing period must test at the board approved facility within five (5) calendar days.

2. RANDOM TESTING:

- a. In-season random testing will be done throughout the season. Each season there may be 20% of the athletes tested per random selection. An athlete may be randomly tested more than once per season.
- b. Once an athlete has participated in a sport they are subject to random testing throughout the school year, regardless of how many sports they participate in during the year.
- c. The Lake Local School District will employ an independent private agency to randomly select athletes for testing. This system may include computer generated random numbers or names or by pulling numbers from a pool of numbers equal to the number of eligible student athletes.
- d. Random testing is unannounced. The date and time will be selected by the Athletic Director. Random testing may be done weekly.

E. REFUSAL TO TEST

1. A student athlete refusing *or unable* to submit a urine sample during a pre-season or random test will have 24 hours to produce a non-dilute sample at the approved Board of Education testing facility, at their own expense.
2. Failure to comply within the 24-hour period is a Drug Policy violation.

F. DRUGS FOR WHICH ATHLETES MAY BE TESTED:

Including, but not limited to: LSD – Alcohol – Marijuana – K2 Spice (Spice) – Amphetamines – Barbiturates – Nicotine Benzodiazepines _ methadone – Anabolic Steroids – Methaqualone Opiates – Cocaine – Propoxyphene (Darvon)

G. APPROVED BOARD OF EDUCATION TESTING FACILITY

1. The only facility in which the Lake Schools will accept test results from is:

GREAT LAKES BIOMEDICAL

25660 Dixie Highway Perrysburg, OH 43551 Office: (419) 872-5343 Fax: (419) 872-7464

2. This facility has on-call technicians 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help working parents. Call ahead to notify them of your approval. Testing done at this facility may be at the athlete's expense.
3. A parent/guardian is required to accompany any minor under the age of 18 years old. If a parent/guardian is unable to accompany a minor, the parent may sign a waiver allowing the minor to test without adult supervision. These forms can be obtained from the facility.

H. COLLECTION PROCESS

The student will be notified to report to the collection site. A specimen of urine is collected following this process:

1. Random testing periods last for (1) hour. Pre-season testing follows posted schedule.
2. Drug testing area must be secured during the testing. Those not testing must clear the area.
3. Only lab technicians and students will be witnesses to the test.
4. Privacy must be kept for all students.
5. The Informed Consent Agreement must be completed and signed by both parent/guardian and student, prior to testing.
6. When students arrive and cannot give a sample, they will need to start drinking water, pop, or juice. After 36 oz. the human body will usually need to urinate.
7. Any student who is taking a medication must notify the technician prior to testing and have the medication listed on the Informed Consent Agreement.
8. No bags, backpacks, purses, cups, containers or drinks will be allowed to enter the collection area. All coats, vests, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves or baggy clothing must be removed before entering the collection site. Only pants and T-shirts or dresses may be worn in the collection area.
9. Students processed by the technician who cannot produce a sample will be kept in a secured area to wait until they can test. If they leave this area they may not be allowed to test. They are not to have contact with anyone until after they have tested.
10. Students will be asked to hold out their hands and a sanitizer will be put on their hands. The bathroom personnel will add a dye to the toilet.
11. Students will be asked to urinate directly into the collection cup given to them by the lab technician. The technician will stand outside the stall and listen for normal sounds of urination.
12. Adulterations or diluted samples of the specimen will be detected and considered the same as a test refusal or drug policy violation. The lab checks samples for adulterations or diluted samples and requires a retest within 24 hours if that occurs.
13. Suspicion of tampering with the sample will be brought to the tester's attention. The sample will be sent to the lab for immediate confirmation of tampering.
14. The sample must be taken in one attempt and be at least 30 ml in size. The student must hand the cup to the lab technician.
15. Students are not to flush the toilets. In the event that a student flushes the toilet, they will be required to give a new sample immediately or the sample will be invalid.
16. With the student watching, the technician will recap the sample and hand it to the student who must then return it to the technician. In the event the student does not hand the cup directly to the technician, the sample is invalid and a new sample must be taken. If the student leaves the collection area or walks out to talk with anyone, the sample will be invalid and the student will have to give another sample.

17. Infringement of these rules will result in the student taking a retest.
18. This collection procedure is subject to change because of procedural requirements by the testing agency. The Lake Local School Board reserves the right to change the collection procedure to coincide with the testing guidelines as set forth by the agency and/or best practices.

I. CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF DRUG POLICY:

POSSESSION OR USE OF ALCOHOL, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/MOOD ALTERING CHEMICALS, AND TOBACCO OR POSITIVE TEST RESULT (Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco)

1. FIRST OFFENSE:

- a. Parent(s) will be called and a letter shall be mailed, emailed, or sent home with the student to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and a copy placed in the athlete's athletic file that alerts the athlete of the violation, and informs the athlete of the consequences of further violations.
- b. The athlete will be denied participation for a minimum of 20% of the regularly scheduled contests of the current sport season. This may include post-season contests or be extended through the next sport season. The parent/guardian and/or athlete may be required to meet with the Athletic Director and/or the Administrator to determine reinstatement. The athlete may be required, at parent/guardian expense, to submit to weekly or monthly testing for the remainder of the current athletic season.
- c. The athlete will lose any leadership position in athletic activities for the remainder of the school year.
- d. To resume competition, the athlete will be required to obtain a chemical dependency assessment from a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Dept. of Health or the Ohio Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. *The parent/guardian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the Athletic Department with documentation that the athlete completed the recommendations of the counselor.*
- e. If the athlete does not obtain the chemical dependency assessment or does not comply with the counselor recommendations or make reasonable progress towards completion of counseling, the student will be denied participation in interscholastic athletics until such counseling has been completed.
- f. For tobacco, the denial of participation may be reduced to 10% of the scheduled contests if the athlete participates in a tobacco intervention/education program. The Athletic Director may reinstate the athlete upon evidence of participation in a tobacco intervention/education program. The participation in a tobacco intervention/education program is paid for by the parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) of the athlete.
- g. The denial of the privilege to compete will begin with the last contest in which the athlete has been eligible to compete or the date on which a violation of the substance abuse policy has been determined.
- h. The counseling may sometimes be done at the school at no cost to the parents.

2. SECOND OFFENSE:

- a. Parent(s) will be called and a letter shall be mailed, emailed, or sent home with the student to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and a copy placed in the athlete's athletic file that alerts the athlete of the violation, and informs the athlete of the consequences of further violations.
- b. The athlete will be denied participation for 100% of the regularly scheduled contests of the current sport season and post-season contests. If the offense occurs during the sport season, the 100% suspension will extend into the next sport season the athlete participates in, to an equivalent extent as determined by the Athletic Director. The parent/guardian and/or athlete may be required to meet with the Athletic Director and/or Administrator to determine reinstatement. The athlete may also be required, at parent/guardian expense, to submit to monthly drug testing for up to six months.
- c. The athlete will lose any leadership position in athletic activities for the remainder of the school year.

- d. To resume competition, the athlete will be required to obtain a chemical dependency assessment from a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Dept. of Health or the Ohio Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. *The parent/guardian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the Athletic Department with documentation that the athlete completed the recommendations of the counselor.*
- e. If the athlete does not obtain the chemical dependency assessment or does not comply with the counselor recommendations or make reasonable progress towards completion of counseling, the student will be denied participation in interscholastic athletics until such counseling has been completed.

3. THIRD OFFENSE:

- a. The athlete is denied contest participation for one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation. Coaches, at their discretion, may allow the athlete to practice with a team.
- b. To resume competition, the athlete will be required to obtain a chemical dependency assessment from a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Dept. of Health or the Ohio Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. *The parent/guardian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the Athletic Department with documentation that the athlete completed the recommendations of the counselor.*
- c. The parent/guardian and/or athlete may be required to meet with the Athletic Director, and/or an Administrator to determine reinstatement.
- d. The athlete may be required, at parent/guardian expense, to submit to monthly drug testing for up to one (1) calendar year.

4. FOURTH OFFENSE:

- a. The athlete is permanently denied the privilege to participate in athletics in the Lake Local Schools.

J. SUSPENSION REQUIREMENTS:

FIRST OFFENSE

- 1. A student athlete serving a suspension for the First Offense must complete the entire season for which they have chosen to participate. ***The suspension will not be considered served if they fail to complete their season.*** In that case, the suspension will restart with the next season the athlete participates.
- 2. While serving the suspension, the athlete must attend all practices and contests. The student will travel with the team and be part of the team. However, the student may not be dressed in uniform during their suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE

- 3. A student athlete serving a suspension for the Second Offense must;
If in season, complete in good standing and finish the suspension the next athletic season that the athlete chooses to compete in.
- 4. Complete in an athletic season, attending all practices and contests, in good standing. The student will travel with the team and be a part of the team. However, the student may not be dressed in uniform during the suspension. If a coach chooses to dismiss an athlete from the team, the student athlete will have to complete the remaining percentage of the season in a future athletic season.

K. EXPUNGEMENT OF FIRST OFFENSE

1. If a student athlete commits a First Offense and complies with all reinstatement requirements set forth in Section I.1 or Section O, the athlete can expunge (erase) that First Offense from the record if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. The student athlete produces six (6) consecutive monthly negative urine drug test results from the Board of Education approved testing facility.
 - b. The urine drug tests are paid for by the student athlete/parent/guardian.
 - c. Expungement applies to erase a First Offense only.
 - d. There must be no other Drug Policy violations before the expungement is granted by the Athletic Director. Expungement may be granted only one time per student athlete.

L. SELLING OR ATTEMPTING TO SELL ALCOHOL OR TRAFFICKING IN CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/MOOD-ALTERING CHEMICALS

1. Student athletes who sell or attempt to sell alcohol or controlled substances/mood-altering chemicals shall be denied and disqualified to participate in any form of athletics for one (1) calendar year.
2. Parent(s) will be called and a letter shall be mailed, emailed, or sent home with the student to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and a copy placed in the athlete's file that alerts the athlete of the violation and informs the athlete of the consequences of any further violations.
3. Student athletes who aid or abet another student in selling or attempting to sell alcohol or controlled substances/mood-altering chemicals shall be disciplined as if the student athlete was the principal offender.
4. Information collected related to selling or trafficking will be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities.
5. A second offense on this will result in permanent denial of participation in athletics at Lake Local Schools.

M. REASONABLE SUSPICION

1. Reasonable suspicion is still part of the Athletic Handbook. Therefore, athletes who, based on reasonable suspicion, use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will be subject to denial of participation. The Athletic Department reserves the right to enforce this policy based upon reasonable suspicion. Disciplinary action based on reasonable suspicion will be the responsibility of the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

N. DUE PROCESS

1. A student athlete who violates this Drug Policy will be afforded due process as follows:
 - a. The student athlete and/or parent(s)/guardians may request a meeting with the Athletic Director and building Principal to discuss the basis for the violation.
 - b. The student athlete may appeal the violation to the Superintendent in writing within three days of notification of the violation.
 - c. The student athlete may then appeal the violation to the Board of Education within three days of notification of the Superintendent's decision.
 - d. All penalties and consequences will be enforced during the appeal process, unless stayed by the Superintendent.
 - e. Those involved in the appeal process may consider all relevant evidence presented, including any hair follicle testing or other scientifically reliable testing obtained by the student athlete at the athlete's/parent's/guardian's expense.

O. VOLUNTARY REFERRAL OPTION FOR FIRST OFFENSE ONLY

1. Student athletes have the opportunity for a voluntary referral procedure to seek information, guidance, counseling, and/or assessment regarding the use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, and other controlled or non-controlled substances.
2. Voluntary referrals may be made by the student, his/her immediate family, or from a fellow student. Voluntary referrals will not carry violation consequences, however, it will be counted as a First Offense.
3. To avoid receiving a denial of participation, the student must obtain a chemical dependency assessment and follow the recommendations of the chemical dependency counselor. Completion of the counselor's recommendations must be within the time schedule established by the counselor.
4. The Voluntary referral can be made to the Athletic Director, coach, counselor, administration or the substance abuse prevention coordinator.
5. Voluntary referral must occur prior to any report of violations and 72 hours prior to a random drug test. Involvement by law enforcement officials negates the option of voluntary referral.
6. The student may use the option of voluntary referral once for the First Offense only. Voluntary referral which results in no prohibition from the participation is considered a First Offense. Any subsequent violations will be enforced accordingly to this Drug Policy.
7. If the student requesting the voluntary referral opportunity does not complete the assessment recommendations by the established time schedule, the violation consequence will be put into effect immediately.

17. EJECTIONS / SPECTATOR BEHAVIORS

A. ATHLETE EJECTIONS FROM CONTESTS

1. By adoption of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (O.H.S.A.A.), any student/athlete ejected from an interscholastic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two (2) regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student/athlete shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student/athlete participates. A student/athlete under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).
2. A student/athlete who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Commissioner.
3. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates. It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure that this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible athlete is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests, and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the O.H.S.A.A. Tournament Regulations. In accordance with O.H.S.A.A. Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

B. UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR @ CONTESTS

1. No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the 'playing area' in which a contest is being conducted and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of conflict – verbal or physical.
2. If a student-athlete leaves the 'playing area' and enters the spectator area of a facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be: The student-athlete's privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year. (per O.H.S.A.A. – adopted 12/04).

C. SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

1. We believe that each participant should be committed to upholding the ideals of good sportsmanship put forth in this document. It is in this spirit that the suggested disciplinary actions are proposed. We also recognize the importance of communication and cooperation between school officials when incidents of inappropriate behavior arise.
2. Partisan spectators, by their behaviors and reactions, determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded, and should keep in mind, that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams. They are expected to be treated as such. Spectators should be reminded, too, that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. Inappropriate spectator behaviors:
 1. Verbal/physical abuse of officials, team members, coaches, school officials or other spectators.
 2. Being disrespectful towards officials, team members, coaches, school officials or other spectators through negative chants, signs, cheers or verbal comments.
 3. Engaging opponent's student section.
 4. Interruption of contest: Throwing objects on playing area, entering playing area, disruptive behaviors.
 5. Inappropriate attire worn at athletic contests.
3. Suggested disciplinary actions for displaying inappropriate behaviors:
 - a. Removal from contest.
 - b. Conference/hearing with school officials.
 - c. Removal from all athletic activities or related for up to (1) calendar year.

18. ELIGIBILITY: OHSAA & LAKE BOE REGULATIONS

A. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

1. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for participation in the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement.
2. Starting with the first grading period of 7th Grade and thereafter a student must be currently enrolled and have been enrolled in the preceding grading period, receiving passing grades during that preceding grading period from a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades.
3. Any student receiving an "I" or "incomplete" would have the "I" averaged as an "F" in determining eligibility. Make-up work to change a grade does not change the eligibility of an athlete, unless it is determined that the incomplete was the result of a long-term hospitalization or illness. A physician's note may be required.
4. Student athletes are expected to achieve and maintain a 1.7 G.P.A. or higher to be held in "academic good standing." A student athlete with a G.P.A. below 1.7, but who otherwise meets the baseline academic eligibility requirement of 1.5 G.P.A. or higher, will be placed on "academic watch."
5. Student athletes on "academic watch" have two grading periods to achieve academic good standing (1.70 gpa) but remain eligible for interscholastic athletic competition if they otherwise meet the baseline academic eligibility regulations.
6. If, after two grading periods on "academic watch", a student athlete does not achieve a 1.7 G.P.A. or higher, that student will lose eligibility for interscholastic athletic competition until that student achieves a 1.7 G.P.A. or higher at the next mid-term or full-term progress report.

7. However, if a student falls below the baseline academic eligibility requirement of 1.50 G.P.A. at the end of a grading period, but has passing grades in a minimum of (5) courses - they are ineligible to participate until they achieve a 1.70 GPA on their 'Midterm Progress Report'.
8. Items 5 & 6 above do not apply to a student that is determined by the building principal, after consulting with appropriate staff members, to be performing at or near that student's academic capabilities. However, students must meet the baseline academic regulations already in place (1.5 G.P.A. or higher, etc.) to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.
9. College Credit Plus (CCP) students are still required to be enrolled & passing the equivalent of five (1) credit courses in the college/university they attend combined with courses with Lake Schools to be eligible for athletic participation.

B. ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

1. The eligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth (5th) school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.
 - *EXCEPTION:* A student coming off the "ineligible status" may become eligible 24 hours after the mandatory grade reporting date (a date established by Board policy which cannot be the same day as the end of the grading period)
 - *EXCEPTION:* Eligibility or ineligibility of athletes for the first grading period begins with the start of the fall sports season.
2. An athlete may be permitted to try out for any sport or activity in which the number of participants is restricted by team selection.
3. An athlete can practice with a team or group, during their ineligibility period.
4. However, a student cannot participate in any athletic contest, scrimmage, or in exhibition situations during the period of ineligibility. (O.H.S.A.A. Policy)
5. A student who becomes ineligible in mid-season of a sport or activity can continue to practice with a team or group.

C. AGE & SEMESTER REGULATIONS (per OHSAA)

HS STUDENT:

Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in relation to the sports season.

EXCEPTION 1: If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student's specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner's office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office, the Commissioner's office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

7/8 STUDENT:

If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th & 8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

EXCEPTION 1: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student’s specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner’s office, the Commissioner’s office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

EXCEPTION 2: If a student has repeated any grade from kindergarten through grade 3 at the recommendation of the student’s teachers or other educational professionals and for purely academic reasons and, as a result of repeating any of these grades, the student cannot meet the age limitations of this bylaw in the student’s eighth grade year with the 7th & 8th grade school, the Commissioner’s office may declare the student eligible notwithstanding this bylaw 4-2-2 if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner’s office, the following criteria can be met:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes of her/his grade level; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

An 8th grade student may, at the student’s option, become eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level when the student attains his/her 15th birthday before August 1 of the ensuing school year. The student who chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth grade level. A student opting to commence her/his eligibility at the high school level shall have no more than eight semesters of high school eligibility taken in order of attendance in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-3. *NOTE: This means that a student’s senior year of eligibility will be affected if the student chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight. Furthermore, if the student does not opt to become eligible at the high school level, she/he shall be ineligible on account of her/his age at the 7th-8th grade level of interscholastic competition.*

In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in the school records shall be considered as final, except that when birth records, filed within six years after date of birth, are available in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or a comparable governmental agency, it shall be used. If this information is not available and if the school records do not agree, the earliest date of birth shall be considered the valid date of birth. Family Bibles, physician’s statements, parents’ affidavits, baptismal certificates etc., will not be accepted in lieu of birth certificates. Amendments to birth certificates filed after six years from date of birth will not be considered.

D. NON-SCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

1. A student cannot be a member of a non-scholastic team and a member of an O.H.S.A.A. recognized sport team, sponsored by the B.O.E. of the same sport, during the same season.
2. Other rules governed by the O.H.S.A.A. apply to this participation. It is best advised to check with the athletic department or view online at ohsaa.org.

E. TRANSFERS/OPEN ENROLLMENT

1. There are many rules governed by the O.H.S.A.A. that apply to this area. It is best advised to check with the athletic department or view online at ohsaa.org. There may be a 50% sit-out period for some transfer situations.

19. EQUIPMENT & UNIFORM POLICY

- A. Uniforms - In several sports, the athlete will be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform, which will become their property.
- B. Equipment - All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. All equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season will be subject to a financial penalty.
- C. All equipment issued to a player is to be worn only at practice or scheduled games or scrimmages involving that particular sport. Exceptions must be approved by the coach (i.e.-jerseys).
- D. Before any item is attached, added to, removed from, or worn with a uniform that is issued to an athlete for a specific sport, the athlete must secure permission from the coach. Failure to do so will hold the athlete financially responsible.
- E. Each athlete is responsible for all equipment issued. Keep it clean and in the best possible condition. The Lake Local School District is not responsible for lost or stolen equipment. It is strongly suggested, athletes use a lock on athletic lockers to avoid theft. All athletic equipment is the property of the Board of Education and the Athletic Department. Therefore, school equipment may not be taken from the school building for the use of any other organization or for personal use. Any exception must be approved by the Coach or Director of Athletics.
- F. All equipment issued to an athlete must be returned at the end of the school season. Equipment that is not returned for any reason, or is damaged beyond normal wear and tear, must be paid for at REPLACEMENT cost. Replacement costs are extremely costly to the student. Many times to replace a single uniform can be 3-4 times the normal cost for ordering by bulk. Equipment is to be returned, or lost equipment paid for, within one week of the last contest of the sport. Any athlete who has not returned or paid for lost equipment will be denied the right to participate in athletics until the equipment is returned or paid for. In addition, the athlete may not receive his/her awards, grade card and/or diploma until this obligation has been met.
- G. Under certain circumstances, equipment (i.e.-uniforms) can be sold to team members at the end of the season. This sale will be controlled by the head coach and Director of Athletics. The price will be set by the Director of Athletics and will be the REPLACEMENT cost of the item. The money will be collected by the head coach prior to equipment being given to the athlete.

20. FINES/FEES

- A. Any athlete owing delinquent fines/fees can be denied tryout/participation privileges until such obligation has been met.
- B. In addition, grade cards and diplomas can be withheld until such obligation has been met.

21. FUNDRAISING

- A. The Athletic Department is funded through gate receipts collected at athletic contests and has the tremendous task of funding these athletic programs. With all of the expenses the Athletic Department has it makes it necessary for some individual programs to operate fundraisers with the athletes involved.
- B. These fundraisers are used to improve the quality of their program, such as; field equipment, instructional equipment, reductions of team wear costs to students, reductions of off-season camp/clinic costs to students, etc.

22. HAZING POLICY

- A. Hazing in athletic activities is prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation toward any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk for causing mental or physical harm to any person.

- B. No student athlete shall plan, encourage, or engage in physical harm to any person. No student athlete shall plan, encourage, or engage in any form of hazing in practices, competition, or performances. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. The student athlete faces denied participation from athletics for violation of this policy.

23. INSURANCE STATEMENT

- A. Students participating in the athletic program must be protected by an accident insurance policy in one of the following ways: school insurance, or a school insurance waiver form signed by the parents stating that they have adequate insurance coverage.
- B. The O.H.S.A.A. has purchased a lifetime catastrophic insurance plan that will cover any athlete who is injured to the extent of, or more than \$25,000 in medical expenses. This is above what accident and health insurance carried by the family pays above \$25,000.

24. LEAGUE INFORMATION

A. NORTHERN BUCKEYE CONFERENCE SCHOOLS:

<u>SCHOOLS</u>	<u>NICKNAMES</u>
EASTWOOD	EAGLES
ELMWOOD	ROYALS
FOSTORIA	REDMEN
GENOA	COMETS
LAKE	FLYERS
OTSEGO	KNIGHTS
ROSSFORD	BULLDOGS
WOODMORE	WILDCATS

B. LAKE HIGH SCHOOL SPONSORED SPORTS: (grades 9-12)

B/G - CROSS COUNTRY	B/G - BASKETBALL
FOOTBALL	WRESTLING
B/G - GOLF	BASEBALL
B/G - SOCCER	SOFTBALL
VOLLEYBALL	B/G - TRACK
CHEERLEADING – program is combined competition cheerleading & sideline cheerleading as one. (must do both)	

C. LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL SPONSORED SPORTS: (grades 7-8)

B/G - CROSS COUNTRY	B/G - BASKETBALL
FOOTBALL	WRESTLING
VOLLEYBALL	B/G - TRACK
CHEERLEADING – program is combined competition cheerleading & sideline cheerleading as one. (must do both)	

25. LOCKER POLICY

- A. Lockers - Section 3313.20 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes a Board of Education to adopt a policy, which authorizes a principal to search any student’s locker, and the contents thereof, upon reasonable suspicion that the contents contain evidence of a criminal or school rule violation. Lockers remain the property of the Lake Local School District while on loan to students; and are, therefore, subject to supervision and inspection by school authorities when and where necessary. It is the student’s responsibility to use lockers for school purposes only.
- B. Lockers are not to be used for articles, which may be of such nature as to be harmful, dangerous, in violation of school or legal restrictions, or disruptive to the school process. Such articles are subject to confiscation. Students are not permitted to mark or deface lockers. In such cases, the students breaking locker rules will be assessed a fine.

26. PARTICIPATION FORMS POLICY

- A. Before attending conditioning/training, practice/tryouts, camps/clinics each athlete must have all participation forms completed ONLINE via FinalForms. Information regarding FinalForms can be found on the district website, under athletic department.

27. PARTICIPATION IN DUAL SPORTS (adopted 2020/21)

- A. Permitting a student athlete to participate in more than one school sponsored sport in a season is based on the philosophy that we need to allow the student athlete to fully develop their interests and talents. Coaches must place the good of the student athlete and the total athletic program above their desire “to win” a single contest. Coaches shall not discourage student athletes from broadening their interests and abilities by participating in more than one school sport.
- B. A student athlete will be permitted to participate in two school sponsored sports in one season in accordance with the following policies, terms, conditions, and procedures:
- C. Before the season begins, the student athlete must declare to the Athletic Director and Coaches of the two sports involved of the student athlete’s intention to participate in two sports and must declare which sport is to be primary and which sport is to be secondary.
- D. The student athlete and a parent/guardian will meet with the Athletic Director and the two Coaches to discuss this policy, practical aspects of compliance with it, and sign the Dual Sports Participation Policy and Agreement.
- E. The Coaches of both sports shall agree to allow the student athlete to participate in both sports under the terms of this Policy and Agreement unless compelling reasons are articulated.
- F. The student athlete must attend practices in both sports. In cases of schedule conflicts, the student athlete will be expected to participate in the primary sport. The exception to this will be if a primary sport non-league or non-tournament contest conflicts with a secondary sport’s league or OHSAA tournament contest. Additionally, the student athlete will be expected to miss practice of the primary sport to compete in a contest in the secondary sport.
- G. Once the Dual Sport Participation Policy and Agreement is signed, there will be no opportunity to change the primary sport. No exceptions allowed.
- H. If the student athlete quits the primary sport during the season, the student athlete will be permitted to participate in the secondary sport. However, that student athlete will not be eligible for Dual Sport Participation for one full year. A student athlete may quit the secondary sport and continue with the primary sport.
- I. If a student athlete’s academic performance noticeably declines from typical performance, and can be attributed to dual sport participation, the student athlete may be required to withdraw from the secondary sport.
- J. The Athletic Director will serve in the capacity of advisor and reserve final judgment on any matters concerning dual sports participation.

28. PHILOSOPHY - STATEMENT OF LAKE LOCAL SCHOOLS

- A. The Lake Local Schools Athletic Program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society.
- B. The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone “winning at any cost!” The Board discourages any and all pressures, which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way so as to justify it as an educational activity.
- C. GOAL - The student athlete shall become a more effective citizen in a democratic society.

- D. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES** - The student athlete shall learn teamwork. To work with others in a democratic society, a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. Athletes must place the team and its objectives higher than personal desires.
1. To have fun - The main reason people participate in sports and games.
 2. To be successful - Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
 3. Sportsmanship - To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing you have done your best. We must learn to treat others, as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.
 4. To improve - Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and in those characteristics set forth as being desirable. Enjoy athletics - It is necessary to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics, and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
 5. To develop desirable personal health habits - To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop a desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

29. RISK OF PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

- A. All athletes and parents or guardians must realize the risk of serious injury, permanent disability or death, which may be a result of athletic participation. The Lake Local District will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:
1. Maintain a continuing education program for coaches to learn the most up-to-date techniques and skills to be taught in their sport. Instruct all athletes about the dangers of participation in the particular sport.

30. SOLICITING / SPECIAL EVENTS

- A. Every year the department receives requests to solicit funds at an athletic contest. It has been our experience that every request received has been from a hard working, legitimate group of volunteers. Unfortunately, our first priority is to maintain, support and certainly not hinder the fundraising efforts of our own athletic booster groups and programs. Therefore, every organization, whether it is affiliated with the school or not, must receive permission from the Director of Athletics to solicit funds or operate an activity at an athletic contest.

31. SPORTSMANSHIP

A. FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

1. The Lake Local Schools Athletic Department believes that interscholastic competition, involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (O.H.S.A.A.), should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to insure that all participants have a common understanding of those basic principles.
2. We believe that participation and winning are both important concepts. Participation rates are high in the junior high years, but decrease in the high school years as athletics become more competitive. We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability, and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors and coaches,) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches and players.

3. Respect should be demonstrated for an athletic opponent and for their school at all times. Lake should treat visiting teams, and their supporters, as guests, and accord them the consideration all human beings deserve. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.
4. Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. Officials must be assumed to be, and accepted as, impartial arbiters, who are trained to do their job and can be expected to do the job to the best of their ability.
5. Knowledge of, and a proper respect for, the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit, as well as the “letter” of the rules.
6. All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational behavior. All must maintain a proper perspective if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized.
7. All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance, regardless of affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and good will that is encouraged in all member schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during, and after contests.

B. FOR ADULTS

1. Over the last few years, the Ohio High School Athletic Association has strongly emphasized sportsmanship in athletics. You may have seen their logo “Be a good sport.” We continually emphasize to all our students and student athletes the importance of good sportsmanship. We are asking for your cooperation, and that of the coaches to set the example for good sportsmanship. Unfortunately, the poor behavior of a few reflects badly on all of us.
2. Coaches, and athletes, are only human, and they make mistakes. Yelling at them doesn’t solve anything and only makes matters worse. Help by doing positive cheering for our teams and not cheering negatively against our opponents. Don’t yell at other players; remember that you don’t like to have your son/daughter yelled at by fans.
3. The influence of television has convinced some that berating the officials somehow helps the cause. The television commentator tells us that the coach is “working the official.” For the sake of argument, let’s assume that this supposition has merit. Remember that the level of play that is witnessed on television is vastly different than high school. The athletes, coaches, and officials have a different motivation entirely for being there.
4. At the high school level, the official is the sole authority figure. The official has the power to eject athletes, coaches, fans, and administrators. The notion of “working the official” often times has the opposite effect and the calls seem to mount against you. If you were being treated badly by someone, would you go out of your way to please that person? Most officials work hard to make the contest fair for all concerned, and like athletes, coaches, administrators, and parents, they make mistakes - please give them a break. All of us together can make Lake the best sport around. BE A GOOD SPORT!

32. **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

- A. All athletes are required to ride to and from contests in the school provided transportation. However, with an extraordinary circumstance, there may be a need for an athlete to ride home with their parents for a reason beyond the athlete’s control. In this case we ask for parents to provide advance written notice to the coach. This is not intended to be a repeated situation and permission can be denied. No special arrangements will be considered to accommodate an athlete’s work schedule and students will not be permitted to drive themselves.

33. **WEIGHT ROOM**

- A. The weight room is available for any athlete (grades 7-12) and is located in the High School Building. There is trained supervision after school, 4 times a week, 3:30-5:00 PM when school is in session.